

Submitter: Dave Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I live within 400 yards of the Scio property that is ? been approved for development of a tier 2 CAFO. I have submitted previous testimony as a licensed board certified internal medicine MD in the state of oregon. I believe the peer reviewed literature shows a increased chance of possible life threatening conditions (such as pneumonia and bowel infections) that are associated with high densities poultry CAFOs, especially when they are close to surrounding neighbors (see my previous testimony). Since I am a close surrounding neighbor, this type of operation directly threatens my health. As an active physician in the community, I also practice preventative medicine and believe in the adage that "a stitch in time saves 9". The use of unlimited industrial water use by way of farm use wells may threaten my water use since I only have a 30 foot deep hand dug well that I use for my farm house chores and drinking. I have had it tested several yrs ago and it is at the high level of nitrogen at the limit ... if now goes higher (from contaminated ground water from chicken excrement), this becomes unsafe for me and my loved ones. High density poultry operations are known for a lot of feed coming in and a lot of nitrogen associated chicken manure going out (thousands of tons). It is impossible to contain all this either in underlying soil or as an aerosolized pollutant especially if exhaust fans are used in the barns to keep 450,000 young chickens cool in the summer. Based on these comments, we need a moratorium for at least 5 years on tier 2 operations until more knowledge is gained in scientific studies. It takes at least 5 years from a study design conception to completion and publishing info in a peer reviewed journal to become accepted new factual info. Ok'ing Tier one CAFOs for 2 years does not make sense for the same reasoning since a tier one operation could be started with the intent to become a tier 2 operation. Also the people that live BY and NEXT TO these CAFOs should have a priority in their comments since we are the farming community people who are absolutely and directly effected. Although elected representatives of our state have some say, those that live next to these proposed operations need more and prioritized say since it is our daily lives that are in jeopardy.